

# St. Mary Magdalene

CATHOLIC CHURCH



**27th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
October 6, 2019**



## REFLECTION

Over the years, I have come to see St. Jerome not as the cranky, old man often panned by his critics, nor an other-worldly superhero whose piety and moral virtue seem to be much too lofty to emulate (as most saints seem to be to me).

Rather, Jerome's brokenness acts as a mirror and invites me to see that my own brokenness may direct me outward from my parched inner landscape toward God's ebullient fecundity. For, it was in the recognition of his inordinate desire for the beauty of literature—prompted by his fever-induced vision—that led Jerome to receive exculpation after crying out to the Judge from deep within: "Lord, have mercy on me! - Stuart Squires

**Mass Today—124**

**Offertory Helpers— Children Volunteers**

**Weekend Masses—**Saturday—5pm & Sunday—9am & 10:45am

**Weekday Masses—**Daily Mass Wednesday—Friday at 8:15am in Chapel

**Sunday Youth Mass 6pm—**No Youth Mass October 6th, Youth Mass October 13th, 20th, and 27th

### PARISH CONTACTS

**Pastor—Father Donald Staib,**—919-387-3648, [donfs22@aol.com](mailto:donfs22@aol.com)

**School Principal—**John Mihalyo, 919-657-4800 ext. 7294, [principal@stmm.net](mailto:principal@stmm.net)

**Parish Office—**Deb Prewitt, 919-657-4800 ext. 7281, [prewitt@stmm.net](mailto:prewitt@stmm.net)

**Parish Bookkeeper—**Julie Hoffman, 919-657-4800 ext. 7282, [hoffman@stmm.net](mailto:hoffman@stmm.net)

**625 MAGDALA PL.  
APEX, NC 27502**

**(919) 657-4800  
WWW.STMM.NET**

### Gathering:

O Love of God 301

### Psalm: 95

If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

### Preparation:

Servant Song 386

### Communion:

Hold On To Love 486

I am the Bread of Life 370

Seed, Scattered and Sown 355

### Sending Forth:

With One Voice 384

## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

My Dear Friends,



During October – November each year for the weekend Masses I often use different Eucharistic Prayers at Mass. I am not sure they are in the Missals people use. There are 4 of them and I rotate them from week to week.

I did find them online under the words 'Eucharistic Prayers for Various Needs.'

I am grateful to our staff for having Communion Services on Monday and Tuesday this week while I am away.

For the past year we have been assisting a parish and school in Haiti as a sister parish. Next weekend the pastor will come to talk to us directly about the needs of his parish.

**CONFESSIONS:** There will be Confessions this Saturday, October 5 at 10:30 and on Saturday October 12 at 10:30.

Father Donald Staib

### IMPORTANT

#### PARISH DATES

##### October

- 4—6—EDGE Fall Retreat—Camp Caraway
- 6—No EDGE, WAY, Apostello, or ROCK due to retreat
- 6—No Youth Mass
- 7—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4
- 10—Family Rosary—7pm—Chapel
- 12—Welcome Dinner—6pm—Activity Building Dining Hall
- 13—Knights Breakfast—after 9am Mass in Dining Hall
- 13—Youth Mass—6pm
- 14—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4
- 14—Parish Council Meeting—7pm—Church Room 1
- 17—Family Rosary—7pm—Chapel
- 20—2nd Collection—World Mission Sunday
- 20—Youth Mass—6pm
- 21—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4
- 24—Family Rosary—7pm—Chapel
- 26—"Living in the Power of the Spirit" - 8:30am
- 27—Youth Mass—6pm

Deadline for Bulletin submission is the Wednesday Morning prior to the weekend of publication (Send bulletin requests to [info@stmm.net](mailto:info@stmm.net))

#### Mass Intentions

- Oct 5—5pm—Dick Foster—Bette Foster
- Oct 6—9am—Parishioners of StMM
- Oct 6—10:45am—John Nelli—Nelli Family
- Oct 9—8:15am—Helena Mazzella—Kathy & Lenny Lynch
- Oct 10—8:15am—John Uebelhart—Mom & Daughters
- Oct 11—8:15am—Richard Duley—Fran Duley

#### For Mass Intentions/Mass Cards—Call the Parish Office

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#### SACRAMENTS

**BAPTISMS** – See the Guidelines on the Website – then email the Pastor. First time parents must attend a baptism class [a good time is during the 9 months prior to birth.] Baptisms are usually, not always, at 10am on Saturdays or at weekend Masses.

**CONFESSIONS** – Always check the Pastor's Paragraph in the weekly Bulletin or our E-News mailed on Fridays. Confessions are usually, but not every week, at 10:30am on Saturdays in the Church.

**WEDDINGS** – See the Guidelines on the Website – then email the Pastor.

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#### FINANCIAL MATTERS

**OUR NEW CHURCH** – We have the obligation to make large monthly payments for 14 years for the construction of the church. In addition we are challenged to respond to new parish endeavors in all our parish programs. We are grateful to those who help us in the weekly Offertory for regular expenses and in the monthly white envelope for debt payments for the church.

## Elementary Religious Ed

**All Elementary Program Families:** We have opened wide the StMM doors to all our families for another year of faith-filled learning with our volunteer catechists. We will again be partnering with Catholic Parish Outreach in helping the poor right here in Wake County communities with our monthly contributions of packaged toilet paper. As we all certainly are aware that this non-food need is always in demand in daily life. Each grade has been assigned a specific month for contributions. Please mark your calendars for your child/ren's month. Please be as generous as your means will allow and many thanks in advance for your generosity.

### **Collection Dates/Mark Your Calendars for Toilet Paper**

#### **Donations:**

Grades PK/K/Intermediate Sacrament Students: October 20th & 23rd

Grade 1 Students: November 10th & 13th

Grade 2 Students: January 12th & 15th

Grade 3 Students: February 9th & 12th

Grade 4 Students: March 15th & 18th

**Attention First Sacrament Families** of children in Grade 2 PREP, Wednesday Intermediate Sacrament Students, StMM School Grade 2 Families, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Students-2nd year of Level II: **First Reconciliation Parent Meetings** are set for Monday, November 18th in Church Room 3 at 10:30-11:30 am OR 7:00-8:00 pm and Tuesday November 19th 10:30 – 11:30 am OR 7:00 – 8:00 pm. One parent is required to attend one of these meetings. If you attended in 2018 -2019 OR 2017-2018 you do not have to attend the meeting. You are, however, responsible for picking up meeting materials in the Parish Office. Contact Suzanne - [will@stmm.net](mailto:will@stmm.net) with your questions.

**Helpful Information to Stay Informed:** [www.stmm.church](http://www.stmm.church)



**Substitute Catechists** are needed for Sundays 12-1:15 pm and Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm. Lesson plans & all materials are provided each week. This ministry welcomes retirees, working parents, stay at home parents & confirmed looking for service hours. Please contact Suzanne [will@stmm.net](mailto:will@stmm.net)



**The ROCK will not meet this Sunday, October 6th, due to the EDGE Retreat.**

**ROCK Core Team Needed** Due to the overwhelming response of our new program, the ROCK (Reaching Out for Christ), we are in need of additional volunteer Core Team Leaders to journey with our 5th & 6th Graders. The commitment is every other weekend and the plans are provided to you in advance. Please contact Suzanne [will@stmm.net](mailto:will@stmm.net) or Janine [Janine.mcgann@gmail.com](mailto:Janine.mcgann@gmail.com) to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

*All our programs serve only registered contributing parishioners who use the electronic draft system or weekly envelopes. If you are interested in our religious education programs in the future, register now in our Parish Office and become active parishioners.*

Please direct any questions to Suzanne Will [will@stmm.net](mailto:will@stmm.net) or 919-657-4800 x7280

## Youth Ministry

All StMM YM programs are off this Sunday, October 6th due to the EDGE Retreat

There is no Youth Mass this Sunday 10/6/19

Please pray for all the teens and adults heading out on the EDGE Retreat this weekend!!

We'll return on Sunday 10/13/19 with all our programs on their normal time and schedule

We will be hosting our good friend Fr Joe from Haiti at the Youth Mass on 10/13!!!!

The STMM YM Calendar for the 2019-2020 school year can be found at this link on the right side of the page:

<http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm>

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:** STMM YM is looking for 15 teens who are 12 years and older to be 'buddies' for Miracle League on Saturday, October 12th from 10:45am-12:45pm. Please contact Liz Sams for a buddy form to complete and bring with you to the field on 10/12. Miracle League is a wonderful organization that pairs buddies with special needs kids to enjoy a great day playing baseball!!! Awesome service opportunity! Games are played at Adams Elementary in Cary near Cary Towne Center

**HS Girls Retreat "Speaking to Sparrows"** registration is now open. Forms will be available at The Way on Sunday at the sign in table in the lobby. This retreat is open to girls in 9th-12th grade and will be held Friday, November 8th to Sunday November 10th in New Hill, NC. Cost is \$75.00 per girl. It is an amazing opportunity for girls to create community, build up sisterhood, spend the weekend in her pajamas/soft clothes and get away from the everyday stresses of high school life. Girls from any church/denomination can attend this retreat!! Spots are limited to 20 girls and at this time are not open to girls who have already attended in past years. If we don't fill the 20 spots, we'll open it up to returners!

Registration has now closed for all STMM YM programs. Please contact Janine or Liz directly if you missed our registration period.

Janine McGann can be reached at [janine.mcgann@gmail.com](mailto:janine.mcgann@gmail.com)

Liz Sams can be reached at [liz.sams@gmail.com](mailto:liz.sams@gmail.com)





## RCIA

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but not confirmed? We can help! The **RCIA** process at StMM assisted 8 adults in completing their sacraments of initiation at the 2019 Easter Vigil. Our next session will be Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM in Room #4 of the church building. It's not too late to join the discussions. Please contact Scott and Kathy Strednak at [rcia@stmm.net](mailto:rcia@stmm.net) if you missed the inquiry sessions.



## Today's Announcements



**The CSO** (Catholic Senior Organization for men and women 60+) meets every third Monday of the month, September through May. Our next meeting will take place Monday, October 21, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, in Church meeting room #1. For more information, please contact Miriam Moore, [miriamdel79@yahoo.com](mailto:miriamdel79@yahoo.com), 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, [gmomfran@gmail.com](mailto:gmomfran@gmail.com).

Catholics today face many obstacles to experiencing a vibrant, personal relationship with Christ. Life pulls us in so many directions, often times away from Him. It is not uncommon for us to feel alone on our faith journey. Maybe we have gaps in our understanding of the Church's teachings but we don't know how to fill them. Or, we may not have the tools or confidence to share the saving grace of the Good News with others the way Jesus instructs us to in Matthew 28: 16-20. If any of these sound like you, then prayerfully consider joining a **Discipleship Quad**. After a year of extensive research, Franciscan University created this free resource to help people have the relationship with Christ they desire. It is based on a model that has over thirty years of success. Your journey with the Discipleship Quad will equip you with the tools you need to help rebuild our Church at a time when we desperately need disciples. Sign ups are ongoing. And 100% FREE. **For more information, as well as all the free resources needed to get started, visit <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/discipleship-quads/> Or email Laura Werner at [stebenvillemissionNC@gmail.com](mailto:stebenvillemissionNC@gmail.com) for more information.**

**StMM Book Club:** All are invited to join the StMM Book Club that meets the first Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room 1 in the church. We are a group that enjoys reading a selection of fiction and non-fiction books and sharing our thoughts. If you have questions or want to join us, contact Ann Dudzinski at [amdudzinski@gmail.com](mailto:amdudzinski@gmail.com)



Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun and is held during the Sunday morning liturgies at 9:00 & 10:45 am. It mirrors the worship experience of the parish community in an engaging and interactive environment. Eligible participants are children 3 - 6 years old. This program is a co-op; dependent upon parishioner involvement. Volunteers must be Safe Environment Certified. If you'd like to assist with this ministry, please contact the Program Coordinator, Jennifer Jury at [stmmclow@gmail.com](mailto:stmmclow@gmail.com).

**Live stream StMM's 10:45am Mass** at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NgzXgQgmlxtNRZA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NgzXgQgmlxtNRZA?view_as=subscriber) or Search YouTube for 'STMM CHURCH LIVE.'



**Refresh** - An Adult Program held during PREP. Apex is a great place to live, but the number one city for you is where you can build your village. Get to know those around you at Mass. Meet other StMM families. Have a cup of coffee.

We're meant to live in community, to connect with others. If it takes a village, let's build one! Join us on Sundays at Noon in the science room on the second floor of the StMM school building while your child is in PREP. Questions? Contact Nicole, [nicolesebik@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolesebik@yahoo.com) or Joe, [jsebik@icloud.com](mailto:jsebik@icloud.com).

**"Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit"** - Are you interested in experiencing more fully, the power of the Holy Spirit? A group of parishioners has come together to offer a one day workshop on living in the power of the Holy Spirit - **Saturday October 26th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. A continental breakfast will be available. Bring your own lunch.** This day is about renewing our Christian faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is about seeking a new intimacy with Jesus and the fullness of the Holy Spirit, so that we can be and bring God's presence to the people and circumstances of our lives. If you have never said yes to Jesus' offer to have a relationship with you, this is an opportunity to do so, as well as seek to experience the fullness of his Holy Spirit. If you have said yes to Jesus' offer to have a relationship with him, but that relationship has grown distant, this is an opportunity to renew that relationship and also seek to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit. **Please register by October 19** by contacting Art Klaum (at [artklaum61@gmail.com](mailto:artklaum61@gmail.com)) or Ronda Watts (at [rondatroy-watts@gmail.com](mailto:rondatroy-watts@gmail.com)).

**"Prayers & Squares"** A prayer quilt group We are literally covering people in prayer. A prayer quilt is a lap blanket with ties. A prayer is said with each knot that is tied. All quilts are blessed by Father Staib. To request a prayer quilt to be made for someone or if you are interested in sewing for this group or donating fabric or would like to make contributions to this group, please contact Lorraine Morris at [lcmorris0707@gmail.com](mailto:lcmorris0707@gmail.com)

A soup and salad welcome meal for new members of the parish will be held Saturday Oct 12th in the St Martha hall (the activities building cafeteria) immediately after the 5:00pm mass. We encourage representatives of St Mary Magdalene ministries to attend and to introduce themselves. We also need volunteers to help with meal preparation and setup. If you would like to attend the dinner or volunteer to help, please call Christine Agius at 919-303-5803.

As part of **Respect Life Month**, StMM will be participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign Fundraiser for Birthchoice Pregnancy Center. Birthchoice provides free Pregnancy Tests and Ultrasounds to over 1000 women who are vulnerable to abortion each year. By giving these women complete and accurate information and connecting them with available resources nearly 80% choose life for their baby. Volunteers will be handing out empty baby bottles the weekend of October 12th & 13th. Please take one home and fill it with your spare change, dollar bills or checks made Payable to "Birthchoice" and return it the weekend of October 19th & 20th.

**Now is the perfect time to become a registered parishioner of St. Mary Magdalene!** You can pick up a parish registration form in the Narthex or email [info@stmm.net](mailto:info@stmm.net) and registration form will be emailed to you. The easiest way to return the form is to drop it in the collection basket when you come for Mass. Once you are registered you will receive a Welcome Packet in the mail and will be added to the Email Distribution list to receive our 'almost' every week E-News!





## Respect Life News



Pray the **Rosary for Life** at 10:10am on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Chapel. Our next Rosary for Life is Sunday, October 13th. It is a beautiful way to start the day whether you come before Mass or stay after. Prayer sheets are provided and families with children are welcome.

The latest **40 days for life campaign** is at Drake Circle in Raleigh from September 25 through November 3. KofC 7186 in communion with STMM Respect life committee have signed up with the national 40 days organization to cover the following Vigil hours: 9 AM – 10AM on October 12<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Use your voice in prayer to defend those who haven't yet a voice of their own, those who are truly the least among us. Defend those who cannot defend themselves. Please join us using the signup genius here or go to the 40 days site to signup for your own vigil hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BADA62BA13-40days1>

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a **Project Rachel** weekend retreat November 22-24, 2019. The weekend retreat is strictly confidential for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at [project.rachel@raldioc.org](mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org) or call (919) 852-1021. The cost for the weekend is \$150 (\$100 for early registration) for lodging, meals and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, some assistance is available.



## Diocesan News

The **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** will be celebrated Saturday, October 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh. We will honor those celebrating their wedding anniversary, with special recognition to couples with 25, 50, and 60 years of marriage. Please register at: <https://raldioc.configio.com/go/wam2019>. For questions, call Rebekah Tolson at 919-821-9753.



"My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me." Learn how God is calling you to more in your marriage on the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend on Nov. 8-10, in Atlantic Beach. Early sign up is recommended. For more information, visit our website at: <https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org> or contact us at [applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org](mailto:applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org) or 704-315-2144.



**Single / Single Again** If you are a single, separated, divorced or widowed person, you are invited to join us at our monthly Mass held at Cardinal Gibbon HS chapel at 5:30 pm. A pot-luck social follows Mass. Upcoming Mass schedule: October 20, November 17 and December 15. For more information, contact Celia at [ckeator@nc.rr.com](mailto:ckeator@nc.rr.com), or visit [www.singlesingleagain.com](http://www.singlesingleagain.com) or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/singleagainraleigh](http://www.facebook.com/singleagainraleigh).



## Retrouvaille

It's not too late! Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to help get your marriage back on track. Don't you owe it to your spouse? Don't you owe it to yourself to take a look at your lives together in a new and positive way? This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital disillusionment and misery. For confidential information or to apply to attend the program beginning with the weekend of October 11, 2019, call 800-470-2230 or email [retrouvaillenc@msn.com](mailto:retrouvaillenc@msn.com) or visit the website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). It is not too late to register!

"How Developing Self-Awareness Can Unlock New Doors for Career Growth" featuring Barbara Hunter, Managing Partner at Hunter Rockhold is the next information session, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, 8:30 - 10:30 am; St. Andrew the Apostle Parish CARE Center, Room 214. RSVP to [CNM@stmccary.org](mailto:CNM@stmccary.org). The Career Network Ministry is a group of working professionals and job seekers committed to proactive career management through continuous learning and relationship building for the purpose of enhancing opportunities for immediate or future employment.

**SAVE THE DATE!** St. Gabriel's International Festival Sat., Oct. 12, 2019, 11am-4pm St. Gabriel Church, 3250 Dickinson Ave, Greenville. International foods, entertainment, kids games, beer garden and raffle! Parade of countries at 11 am and raffle drawing at 4 pm. Contact person: Kevin O'Malley, 252-717-9828, [komalley@theoim.com](mailto:komalley@theoim.com).

On October 18th the Knights of Columbus-4th Degree is hosting a pilgrimage to our new Cathedral, The Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. The tour begins at 10:30 AM. We will car pool, gathering at the Saint Micheal's conference center at 9:45 AM. This is a guided tour of this beautiful cathedral. The gift shop should be open for your shopping. After the tour, a luncheon is planned at K & W Cafeteria in Raleigh. Please respond to Gary Lazetera at [glazetera@outlook.com](mailto:glazetera@outlook.com) or Deacon Brian Phillips at [pPhillips2@bellsouth.net](mailto:pPhillips2@bellsouth.net). This is an outstanding chance to view the beauty and splendor in detail with a guide and also time to explore on your own.

**LOCATION CHANGE:** A Memorial Mass will be offered on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 am at **St. Ann's in Clayton** (Not St. Mary's in Garner) for anyone who has lost a child recently, or in the past from a miscarriage, stillbirth, infant loss, abortion, or any type of loss. A potluck luncheon will follow in the Parish Center. Please see St. Ann's website or Facebook page to sign up for the potluck. October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness and Respect Life Month.

**October 13 is Catholic Charities Sunday!** As part of Catholic Charities Sunday, Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama will share a special message about the work of Catholic Charities throughout the diocese. Details will also be shared about "Open House" events which will be taking place at Catholic Charities offices across the diocese on Wednesday, October 16th. Come to Mass with an open heart to learn more about the impactful work of Catholic Charities.



**Change in Date for Ignited By Truth!** The 17th annual Catholic conference will be held on April 18, 2020, at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh "bringing to light the truth of the teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting in all hearts a love for the Faith." Join our mailing list to receive the latest updates! [IgnitedByTruth.org](http://IgnitedByTruth.org)



## Job Opening StMM School

Position Title: Art Teacher  
Full-Time; 30 hours per week

### Key responsibilities / day-to-day job functions

Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic School is a K-8 Catholic school located in Apex. We are currently accepting resumes for an Art teacher. Candidates should present passionate dispositions towards teaching and Catholic formation. The person should:

- Accepting the mission of the school as articulated at the Diocesan and school level;
- Implementation of the educational mission, philosophy, goals, and objectives of the school;
- Plan, prepare, teach, and interact with students in a professional way that challenges students to reach their individual potential while celebrating the ability levels of all students;
- Collaborate with team and cluster to form successful partnerships with parents, the administration, and students;
- Performance of professional responsibilities including but not limited to planning lessons, preparing instructional materials, serving on faculty committees, communication with parents and administration, and maintaining positive relationships with peers, students, parents, and the administration.

### Minimum Requirements

- Applicants should hold a minimum of a North Carolina teaching certificate in Art or a related field.
- Practicing Catholics who have prior teaching experience in a Catholic school setting preferred
- Employment is contingent on the applicant passing a full background check

The position is for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.  
Send resume and letter of interest to: [principal@stmm.net](mailto:principal@stmm.net)

## News From Other Organizations

**For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community** there is a sign language interpreted Mass usually at the 8:30am Sunday Mass at St. Michaels in Cary.

**Rosary Rally** on October 12th at 12pm. We will pray the Rosary at the Apex Memorial near the clock at the intersection of North Salem and Saunders Street. Bring your Rosaries. Sponsored by America needs Fatima.



**Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunity** - New Dates Scheduled! Join NC Catholics Volunteer on October

12th and November 23rd. Help as we repair homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence. Volunteers from all areas and of all experience levels are encouraged to participate! If you have any questions, please contact Jo-El Sidbury Smith by email at [Jo-El.SidburySmith@raldioc.org](mailto:Jo-El.SidburySmith@raldioc.org) or at (910) 251-8130. Spots are limited so sign up now! [www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/NCCV](http://www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/NCCV)

Are you a writer? The Catholic Writers Group will meet at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Simmons Parish Center, 2208 North Elm Street, Greensboro, NC 27408, at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Lunch will be served, so bring your appetite, along with your love of writing. No need to be a published author to enjoy/benefit from the group! Our guest will be Michelle Buckman, who will speak on self-editing and her career as both a novelist and a content editor for major Catholic publishers. We will also discuss re-establishing the critique group. For more info, contact Lisa Geraci at [ls\\_geraci@yahoo.com](mailto:ls_geraci@yahoo.com) or (704) 669-4193.

**St. Thomas More Academy (STMA)**, an independent, Diocesan approved, Catholic college preparatory school in Raleigh, invites all 8th grade students to an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, November 10th from 2-5pm. STMA is located at 3109 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, NC. Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are now being accepted. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this event. In addition to the Open House, "shadowing" is encouraged for all students wishing to experience STMA first hand. Please call 919-576-7064 or email [admissions@stmacademy.org](mailto:admissions@stmacademy.org) with questions or to schedule a visit. For more information visit our Admissions page at [www.stmacademy.org](http://www.stmacademy.org)

**The Legion of Mary** at St Michael the Archangel Church in Cary. All are invited to pray the Rosary with us every Monday night 6:30pm rm3 Conference Center

An Invitation to Married Couples - Whether you are married one month, one year or for decades, the BELOVED series uncovers the mystery and meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage. Developed by the Augustine Institute, BELOVED is a marriage enrichment program that allows married couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery and joy beyond that first "I do." Join us on Thursdays from 7 - 9 PM, October 17 to November 21, Room 224, St. Bernadette Center at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh. To register; email [mirand-lo@gmail.com](mailto:mirand-lo@gmail.com) or call 919-341-7848. This program is FREE and sponsored by Couples for Christ.

## Pastor Al™



"I call Pastor Al an 'Iron Chef' because to eat a meal that he cooks, you have to have an iron stomach."

## **Respect Life Reflection**

### ***Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life***

From the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

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*“Hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm.”*  
*Hebrews 6:18-19*

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Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ.

Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, “God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end” (*Spe salvi* 31).

Christians know “they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness” (SS 2).

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that “the one who has hope lives differently” (SS 2). Christ's promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.



**Joanne Martin**  
PROPERTIES

**KWCARY**  
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